

**Transcription of Governor Daniels' remarks on storm damage throughout the state from  
media availability at the Fort Wayne Airport  
June 9, 2008, 11:45 A.M.**

**[4:00] Question:** Regarding Indiana's request to FEMA for federal assistance.

**[4:01] GOV:** The President approved it at about midnight last night. The first of those—it will be expanded I'm sure. We're going to be adding counties to it, but that can happen. The director of FEMA who I talked to last night from here in Fort Wayne assures me that now that he has the president's signature, he can add counties and benefits as the need becomes clearer. It means everything from cash to loans to public infrastructure assistance, unemployment assistance and I have nothing but good to say about the responsiveness of the federal folks up to this point. But you know we don't wait on Washington in this state. When trouble hits, we look after our own. If you had been with me around Southern Indiana the last two days and central Indiana, you would have seen what we always do. The professionals are doing a great job, and volunteers in great numbers—people donating things and family helping family, neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers.

**[5:13] Question:** Were you surprised at the level of flooding and destruction that you saw?

**[5:17] GOV:** I think everybody was. By now we've seen, and some of it up here, how destructive Mother Nature can be. But nothing quite prepares you for seeing it again first hand. And I don't know that we've ever seen this degree of damage all pile up on top of each other this way—tornadoes on Sunday, tornadoes on Tuesday, and a century level flood on Friday. And we don't know, but she may not be done with us yet. So I think the concentration of damage and hardship here was probably the most I've seen.

**[5:59] Question:** Regarding the things Gov. Daniels has seen, the stories he has heard, etc.

**[6:08] GOV:** There have been a lot of those. I met a lady in Columbus who was on the front page of the paper on Wednesday because the tornado damage to her house took off the roof, and Friday she lost the whole house because of the flood. That's a lot of bad luck in a 72-hour period. But she had a sense of humor and found a way to smile. And you see a lot of that. People are badly shaken—who wouldn't be? But they're pretty tough, too. And again, the way that folks have come together to help each other—I fell in love with this little girl whose family had been plucked off a house by some of our DNR people who had to get up on the roof, or I think her dad said that the hood of the Jeep and to this girl I said, "Lacey, was it scary?" And she said, "Oh, and little bit, but my grandmother got to have the fun. They got her on the jet ski!" I said, "They picked up grandma on a jet ski?" And she said, "Oh yeah!" It may be her new hobby.

**[7:05] Question:** Regarding the process of getting funding from Washington, relaying information.

**[7:16] GOV:** Our experience with the federal authorities has been pretty good. They're moving as fast here as ever. There are certain expedited procedures when an event is clearly,

unambiguously is large enough to qualify, and they have cut those corners for us. So we're getting some things immediately. We needed more water in places where we don't want folks drinking the local water, and they came through with that. But it comes from everywhere. I was advised this morning that Wal-Mart is donating an enormous amount of water and other supplies. Just the average folks are already doing it. And I've now seen this over and over in our state, but it just affects me deeply every time I do.

**[8:01] Question:** Do you have an itinerary for the rest of the day?

**[8:04] GOV:** No, we'll just make it up as we go along. But again, my objective always is to make certain that our people who are doing the real work have everything they need to make absolutely certain that the departments are working together, and the list of departments that are cooperating here might surprise you how long it is. Yes, we have the State Police and the National Guard and the highway department, the environmental management department. But we also use the Department of Correction—some of their low-risk offenders come out and help us. The Department of Insurance is important because people will have questions about what their own personal does or doesn't cover. And DNR again—lots of water rescue work and things like this. And so I concentrate my time on trying to add value there and stay out of the way of the real work.

**[9:02] Question:** When was the decision made about cancelling trip to Japan (rest of question inaudible)?

**[9:10] GOV:** It was a judgment call, and it's a close one. But somewhere along Sunday it finally, after the conference call at 10 AM, the cabinet was in my office and I was on the phone from here and I pretty much made my mind up. But again, listening to the latest forecasts, and at least the speculation, that we might not be on the downside of this, that we might have some more problems, that clenched it for me. I just didn't want to take that chance.